

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A wraparound article carrier for packaging an article, the carton comprising opposed top and base walls interconnected by opposed side walls thereby forming a tubular structure, wherein an aperture is provided in the base wall to accommodate a portion of the article, wherein a bracing tab is formed at least in part from the base wall to define the aperture and folded so as to form a spacer for causing the top and base walls to be spaced by a predetermined distance, wherein the bracing tab is formed in part from one of said side walls and hingedly connected to said one of said side walls, wherein said one of said side walls comprises a securing flap and a side panel secured to the securing flap in face contacting relationship, said securing flap being hingedly connected to the base wall along a first fold line and extending toward the top wall to a free edge of the securing flap, said side panel being connected to the top wall and secured to said securing flap, said bracing tab being formed in part from said securing flap and hingedly connected to the securing flap along a second fold line, and An article carrier as claimed in claim 3, wherein the distance between said free edge of the securing flap and said second fold line is less than the distance between said free edge and said first fold line.

5. (Currently amended) An article carrier as claimed claim 2,4 wherein the bracing tab extends to the top wall or a portion of the article disposed adjacent to the top wall.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)